

Luchowfu Anhwei,
China
January 31, 1931

Dear Friends:

Before another month has rolled by I must tell you about our happy Christmas. Dozens of greetings arrived on time this year. You are all learning to think of us a month ahead of time. I am so glad for remembrances mean so much more when they arrive on time.

Our Christmas preparations started out with a party for the Sunday School teachers here in our home. Lyrel Teagarden and I had prepared gifts for all the children, about two hundred and fifty. Some of them came from California friends of mine, many more from Miss Teagarden's home church. We divided them into similar groups and the teachers enjoyed wrapping them. We gave out the gifts the Sunday before Christmas after the children were divided into classes. I wish you generous folks could have seen their happy faces. For many of them it was the only gift they received. We told them they were gifts from American friends. That same afternoon the children had their Sunday School program. Our big church auditorium was packed, mainly with children, friends made through our play ground. They were very orderly and enjoyed the songs and dramatizations very much. The meeting closed by the entire church full of folks singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." I was thrilled to see how many could sing it. A big improvement over last year. On my way home a small boy stopped me and said "Foreign teacher, is today Jesus' birthday?" He was a child I did not know, but he had heard some one tell the story and realized what it meant. So you see His fame is spreading in Luchowfu.

On Wednesday before Christmas a special church service was held for our church members. Again the church was packed. Mrs. Goulter is training a group of young boys in a choir and they add greatly to our services.

Our Christmas centered largely about the hospital. Two days before, the nurses and I wrapped packages of candy and oranges to be given out to the patients and workers on Christmas morning. Chinese candy is mostly made from rice and peanuts and for a few dollars we had a hundred sacks. On Christmas Eve our nurses gave a program of music and dialogues. They are clever at acting and always enjoy a program. I took Sonny over for a little while. His eyes were as big as saucers, and he still talks about the nurses' song in which they dressed as angels and carried candles. Dr. Corpron put on some magic stunt as his share of the program. That is very popular here.

Our Christmas proper started at 4 A.M. when we were awakened by the nurses coming to sing carols outside our windows. Later a group of boys from the Sunday School came to sing also, so you see foreign customs are being established here. We had two little stockings to hang up this year, the happiest Christmas we have known in five years. Sonny is big enough to know what it is all about and his little sister looked with shining eyes at the lighted tree. After a hurried breakfast and just enough time for Sonny to pull his toys out of his stocking we hurried over to the hospital chapel where we had three services, one in each ward. Our girls sang again and also Miss Wilkinson came and brought a group of her best singers. Pastor Li gave a simple talk explaining what Christ's birthday has meant to the world. The patients entered into the spirit of the day very well. Lastly Santa Claus came and distributed the gifts. Sonny was so fascinated by Santa that he insisted on going to all three services.

After Dr. Corpron had made the rounds and Ruth had had her bath we had a quiet hour at home from eleven to twelve with time to open our two home packages that had arrived from America. That's what seemed most like Christmas to me. Our big celebration was at Goulter's that night when we all had dinner together with a celebration around the tree afterwards. The old Spanish Catholic priest, the only other foreigner in town, was also one of the guests. He enjoyed the roast goose dinner and chuckled over the children's delight in Santa and their toys. Dr. Corpron played Santa and fooled all the kiddies, even six year old Doris.

Right after Christmas came a cold spell and the mail boats in the river froze up. The rest of our packages were held up a month. They just got through last week. Some of the gifts for the Sunday School kiddies we have put away till next year. Duty on packages is getting to be quite a problem for us. We have about stopped buying from Montgomery Ward, etc., for some things like shoes have a twenty two per cent duty. Christmas packages that are so marked on the outside, or "no commercial value," or are valued below five dollars gold come through duty free.

This has been one of the busiest months our hospital has ever known. Dr. Chen is in Peking taking a short course and it leaves a double load here. We have about fifty wounded soldiers, a big proposition for our small staff and meagre equipment. They are men from the regular army who were chasing a group of bandits into the hills about sixty miles west of here. They were surrounded in a ravine and shot at on all sides by the bandits and have been slowly brought overland to us carried by coolies all the way, some of them as much as nine days on the way. They look upon our hospital as a wonderful haven of rest. It has windows and a big stove in the middle of the room much more comfortable than their barracks. They beg not to be dismissed even when they are well enough to walk away. We have filled every available bed, even the women's ward is now filled with civilian male patients and the entire first floor given over to soldiers. The XRay is a big help in hunting bullets. How did we ever get along without it?

Dr. Corpron did eleven operations yesterday, removal of bullets, putting on casts and so on. He has a good interne helper and Miss Hahn, our head nurse, is a jewel. We depend on her for most of the details of administration. She can accomplish an amazing lot of work in a day, still is always good natured and happy. She is ambitious and comes to me for special English classes.

We have added a pair of twin baby girls to our hospital family this month. Their mother came in for delivery January 1st. One baby, born twenty-four hours before she arrived, was pretty much chilled on the long trip in from the country. Dr. Corpron delivered her of the other. Chinese country folks are superstitious about twins, especially girls, and we could see these babies were not wanted. The mother admitted she was planning to drown them for she had more than enough children grown up. Besides them, she had given two girls away and personally drowned three. The problem of food is so great and a girl's dowry is a great expense. We could not persuade her that she was doing wrong. She had never heard of Jesus Christ and his emphasis on the value of human personality. So we decided to adopt the children as a practice problem for our nurses. We were afraid of pneumonia for the oldest one at first. She was surrounded with hot water bottles for over a day before she seemed normally warm. One tiny ear was frost bitten. We started them out on a bottle until we could find a good wet nurse. After several days' search we located a fat healthy country girl who had given her own baby to some neighbors. She was willing to come to us for five dollars a month and her food. The twins are now gaining nicely, have each added about a pound. The nurses take turns in caring for them each week and love them very much. We have received many gifts for them from our Chinese church members. Next Monday we shall have a party as a celebration of their first month's birthday. My small daughter is enough larger so that her out grown clothes descend to them. We have no definite plans for their future as yet. They will be in the hospital the first year. Miss Hahn talks of adopting one as her daughter. It would be too bad to separate them. A short time ago I received sixty dollars from a Methodist class mate of mine, sent for needy sick folks. We are using it to start the twins out on. Some good Chinese family will wish to adopt them, just as they did "Fibby", the lame baby, probably.

Best Seasons Greetings to you all. We are enjoying very much your answers to these letters.

Cordially,

(Signed) Grace S. Corpron.

Luchowfu Anhwei

Feb 7, 1931.

Dear Florence Ann -

I seem to have three letters of yours here waiting to be answered. I wonder if I have not written you since Christmas. Can't be sure. So many thank you letters have surely kept me busy -

First let me say I was much pleased at your choice of a magazine. It's one I had been longing for. No one in Luchowfu had had it since we got back. It is much better than Good Housekeeping or L. H. J. Especially as to stories. Dorothy Confield Sophie Ren etc are so good. Thank you very much -

Don't feel guilty at the expense of the first issue I sent you. At the present rate of exchange it

did not cost much more than
magazine. one gold dollar is now
worth \$4.35 mex. As I remember I
paid about eight dollars for the
two pieces. I suppose you would
call it sweat shop work. women
do it in their homes and are paid
a very poor wage. I could get
you the net filet too. Tell me
what size you want and what
sort of a pattern is in yours.

We had a nice Christmas. all
centered about the kiddies. Now a days
I sort of forget what I did get and
remember the kiddies joy. Sonnie
was awfully interested in Santa and his
big tummy. Ruth was fascinated
by the lighted tree and sat on her
aunt Nona's lap and looked at it
for a long time. Our biggest gift was
a check for \$236 from the Yakima church.

I gave me a hundred which
made four hundred mex. I salted
it away in our savings account and
hope to invest it in some good rugs
next summer. Chinese Peking rugs
are some of the best in the world
and last forever. Also a women's quilt
in Yakima sent me cotton print for two
dresses + two patterns. Sallie sent green silk
panties - mae a Rayon nightie. - Bernice
a good book "Why we Behave like Human
Beings" - mother crocheted dishes + sofa pillow -
Doug gave me five pair of silk stockings
and a big flash light - Lura Jeweller
a sea painting - Lillian - a new record (etc)
Dr. Vierling sent us a big box of whitman's candy +
Sallie a box of Hersheys. So we had quite
a Christmas. That's just my gifts. Sonnie
got even more - + Doug too. Can you
wonder I have been busy writing letters.
Postage has gone up on us too. Twenty
cents a letter counts up pretty fast.
But then we get more salary - over five
hundred a month compared to two hundred
on the old rate. So it comes out about
the same.

You asked about duty etc. of packages

are valued at less than \$5 and marked
of "No Commercial Value" they come thru
free. Its O.K. to put cost price of goods -
also things like books and stationery come
thru duty free. Things like shoes from
Sears Roebuck have a twenty percent duty.
We have about quit ordering from them.
We can get most anything in Shanghai -
except cute kiddie clothes or women's
ready made dresses and patterns -
one shop carries Mcalls but they
always seem to be out of my size -

I am glad you enjoy Sam's picture.
He'll never have a better likeness -
It is not color photography - we had
it done at a Japanese studio in Tungshai.
Doug did the coloring by hand with oil
photo colors. Salhi taught us how when
we visited there last time. It is mostly
done with tooth picks wrapped with cotton.
Very pleasant work - especially on children's
photographs. It makes them seem so real.
In one of your letters you were

complaining about Joe and Ethel - where
do they live now? Have they contrained
to have a baby a year? If so it must
be quite a flock by now. Can't
you teach Ethel how to protect herself.
I suppose you aren't very good friends
any more. Where do they live now?
My impression was out West somewhere.
You have surely done your duty by
them a dozen times over - you'll
be wise in not having a guest room.

I should like to have Minnie walk
in on me that way. She was a good scout.
Does she have any children? Evidently not.
She has had at least two miscarriages
hasn't she? Such a thing gets chronic
and is very hard to stop -

What about Francis Dunning? I suppose
she has not married or you would
have told me. Her mother is one of these
mental cases that needs to be psychoanalyzed.

That makes me think of Ethel Sauer.

She keeps writing to me since we met her in New York - Her mother died this last summer and it leaves her alone in the world. Her letter sounded so blue & lonesome. She has a "John" back in Benidji who has wanted to marry her for years but she has been ambitious and felt that her education was so much better that they would not be happy. He is a Norwegian - with plenty of money - a big car and generous heart - but as she says "he mumbles the King English" - His education was in Norway. I tell her to go ahead - that she will learn to love him after she is married. I told her about your love story and its successful outcome, hoping to encourage her a bit. She has a good salary but no one to spend it on. She sent us \$60 gold to use on hospital work. We are investing it on little baby girls that have just been adopted in the hospital. I wrote about them in a Promotional letter I sent off last week. You'll get a copy eventually - they mail to as many friends as I send them

names postage free. with the provision that they may use my letter any way they choose. It's an easy way to keep in touch with a lot of friends. I reach lots of folks I'd lose track of other wise - for I wouldn't have time or postage for them all. We got so many answers Xmas time. Doug's new engine is working like a top - also his X-Ray machine! We have more power than we need for the lights and are working on a plan to supply some of the other institutions also. Such a satisfaction to get it going at last. Chivers are crazy about photography and takes to X Ray right away. It will always be a paying department. Ought to pay for itself in a few years. It certainly is useful right now. We have over fifty wounded soldiers - most of them with a bullet in them - some where when they come in. They are a big job - takes Doug most of the forenoon to make rounds so many fuzzy dressing - They like our hospital - It's hard to dismiss them.

Ruth is growing fast - what a joy she is
to me. I believe she is going to be very
much like Phyllis - Her eyes are
brown now and so big and pretty.
I can hardly wait for warm weather
when I can put her pretty duds on her
and keep her out doors all the time - It
so cold now she is all wrapped up in
blankets most of the time -

Sonnie is making remarkable
progress. He can say a lot of nursery
~~Phrases and understands most any~~
story, provided it has good illustrations.
He recognizes about ten letters and knows
red and orange always. Blue most of the time
all this at two and a quarter years. I am
not pushing him. It's a game to him
and he gets me by the skirts and insists
on me sitting down to look him half a
dozen times a day. I am glad I have servants
and am free to spend time on him -
Well this must be all -

Much love & many thanks Love

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LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

Feb. 13th, 1931.

Dearest Mother,

It was on your birthday that I last wrote to you. I have been running a three ringed circus since that time, at the hospital. Dr. Chen went to Peking for study for three months in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. He went at this time of year because this is supposed to be our slim season at the hospital. Usually we have less than half the volume of work during December; and the last of January and first part of February we close up shop altogether for three weeks over the China New Year, except for a few special registrations every day. But this year, with Chen gone and only Dr. Tsui, our interne, and Miss Han, our headnurse, and only graduate nurse, we have had double the work of any other month this year; and the local receipts were \$1785.00, when ordinarily they have been below \$1000.00.

The civilian patients have kept up and even exceeded the other months; and on top of this I have made room for from 40 to 50 wounded soldiers. These were gunshot cases the result of the Governments attempt at bandit and Red suppression in the Western part of this Province. These men were all injured at Luanchow, 60 miles West of us. They drove the Reds back into the hills, at least for the winter. I tell you we were putting a big strain on our staff organization for the last month. Just now it is easing up just a bit. But we were organized to handle 50 patients and a daily clinic. But for that month we had to rise to the emergency of taking care of 80 or more; and most of them in a serious condition, with ugly, pussy wounds to dress many times daily. Also we had to operate every afternoon some weeks. That is I had to operate, with Miss Han overseeing the operating room machinery and keep it running smoothly; and Dr. Tsui assisting me. We got our team work down pretty good; so that some afternoons we would run off ten or eleven operations. Eleven was the most in one afternoon.

At the same time I was installing the new Diesel engine and making necessary alterations in my switch board from 110 volt current to 220 volt current. And installing new resistances for my AC generator exciting current, it requiring 110 DC exciting current. Also adding more resistances to my battery charging system. Also I had to operate my Xray, mostly hunting for bullets, at night, and developing my films after that. My day was from 8 AM to 12 midnight for about two weeks; with frequent early mornign calls. It was a heavy schedule, but I was having a great time running my own show again. During this time my kitchen staff got to quarreling, and I had to fire them and get a new bunch. This had to be done very kearefully and on the Q. T. for I had 80 patients, 16 students, and 20 coolies and amahs depending on this part of the machinery for food. So at the end of the month I had another new kitchen force all hired and doing some other work about the hospital awaiting the time of firing. Then on the last day of December, just after dinner I paid salaries and wages. I called the kitchen force in first; told them I was satisfied with their work, but I didn't dare keep them on for fear they would start a fight amongst them selves some time when I was unprepared, and leave me with no one to feed all these 120 mouths. I gave them their December wages, asked them to

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leave at once, and I would have another month's wages ready for them as they left the gate. So the new force moved in for the supper meal. The rice was not well cooked for that one meal, but all the patients realized the situation, and all went off well.

I had not laid in supplies for so large a number of patients. So I soon ran low in gauze. Knowing it would be impossible to get more up until Spring, I found stuff on the street to use as a make-shift dressing material for the wards, and saved the rest of my good gauze for operating room use only. We wash all used gauze over many times and re-sterilize for second and third use. Otherwise we never could afford to do dressings at prices the patients can pay.

We are now having a big snow storm. We are snowbound. The work is now not too heavy. We have work to do and enough food to eat. And a nice little family. And a fine bunch of missionary friends, as you ~~only~~ too know well. We wouldn't trade jobs for a good deal.

Exchange is terrible in China now. One American dollar today changes for Mex.\$4.73. It is going like the German Mark. Daily the Mex. dollar is getting cheaper and cheaper. This is O.K. for our salaries, for we have been getting our money on the gold basis for the last four or five months, while our local buying does not anywhere nearly keep pace with the drop in the exchange. That is we get more and more for our G\$125 every month. The local buying on the other hand increases only a little each month or two, because it is based on local produces and not foreign goods. Our foreign goods, milk (Klim), etc. we bought last fall so are not now doing much of such buying at the present prices, which of course are based on the gold purchase price. But where it hits me hard is in the hospital. I get almost all of my supplies from Shanghai at Gold prices, of course, as the goods and drugs come from America, England, and Germany. But I can't possible increase the hospital charges even at a fraction of the rate of the increase of costs to me. For we are an interior community not affected by Shanghai prices as much as port cities. This is working havoc with my budget, as you can well see. Also, I have Mex. \$3,000 Xray money holding it for more favorable exchange if it ever comes. The Xray must be paid for in Gold. If it comes down to 3.50 again I will have enough to finish payments. If not I am in a hole, and I don't know how to get out. Also, every year there is less and less money coming out from America. My hospital has been cut Mex.\$3,000 for next year, instead of being increased the Mex.\$3,000 and more, as it needs to be with the present exchange.

The children are growing fine. Ruth is getting prettier every day, and rolls in fat. She now weighs 13 pounds, and only 3½ months old. She will be double her birth weight before she is 4½ months old. Sonny knows three fourths of his letters now, and goes over them thus:- "S" in for Sonny, "D" is for Daddy, "W" is for Wenona, and so on through the most of the alphabet.

We know you are now or soon will be paying rent and wish to make a small start at helping you with the new load of

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expenses which it will incur. What we can do is only a drop in the bucket, I know, but it is a start and one way of letting you know that we mean it when we say we will do our best to help. No doubt we can do more later, but at present we are asking the U.C.M.S. to send only \$15 monthly to you before forwarding our salary to us out here. I know that sounds awefully small; but it will let us see how we can swing it, more or less.

Love to you all,

Douglas

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LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

Apr. 26, 1931.

Dearest Mother,

Just a line to go with these pictures and to let you know that we are all well, very busy, and still love you. All is Quiet on the Eastern Front so far this spring. But when spring comes we always feel like holding our breath for evacuation orders or something similar.

We have as you know the same place in Tsingtao rented for this summer as last. This time the Goulters will not go with us. They will go to Kuling this year. But we have our spare rooms all spoken for. The custom for board and room to missionaries at Tsingtao is \$4 a day and up. We have six young ladies who will occupy our rooms and board with us at different times during July and August. Grace will go up about the third week in June and stay until I can bring her home in September. She will take a cook another coolie and her amah with her so the work of running a boarding house won't be very exacting. She will only have to supervise the menu. At this we expect to get our own rent out of it and travel for the servants. This makes it a cheap summer for us.

I have a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation covering tuition, board and room and travel one way to Peking for a course in Obstetrics, running from August 29th through September 19th. I will therefore try to arrange my vacation for August 1st to about the 21st of September. This will give me one week at Tsingtao, two weeks on the road to and from Tsingtao and Peking and three weeks in Peking. I want to use this opportunity not only for Obstetrics but for as much Surgery as I can get in; for now that Dr. Chen has left me I have to be the surgeon at our hospital, and I feel the need of a great deal of study in this field that I have not been preparing myself for. That's the life of the missionary,-- be prepared to jump into any kind of a vacancy and do the best you can with it.

Dr. Chen lost his nerve in the work here in Luchowfu, partly because he couldn't cooperate with the other Chinese leaders here, and partly because he couldn't stand the criticism bound to come to a good man with a position of responsibility and the handling of money. Some quack "doctors" in town were trying their best to injury his reputation by making a lot of rumors whenever a surgery case went bad. Chen finally lost his nerve and resigned. He is now doing Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat work in the University Hospital at Nanking. My other Chinese doctor may be leaving me too. He wants to stay, but his grandparents in Shantung want him to come home and care for them. In China you have to obey the old folks up until they die. Seems funny to us. Well, this leaves me in a bad way, as you can see. I am looking for doctors, and they are hard to find now that the army absorbs so many of them. It may be that we will have to get another foreign doctor. I am trying to persuade Dr. Brady to come up here. He resigned from the Manila hospital because he didn't think that missionary enough. He and family are now in China. They have accepted an invitation to relieve Dr. Slater at Nanking for furlough this next year; and Dr. Hagman at Nantungchow next year for furlough. So I don't know whether I can get them up here or not. If I don't get more doctors in here right off there will be no vacation for me this summer.

I'm sorry you refused to accept my bit of money help. You should accept it and put it on savings if you don't need it now. It may be that I have a life job on my hands here, you know, and later

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when you will need some money I may still be drawing the same small salary and will be unable to dish out a big amount because I have not been saving for it in the way I had proposed. So you had better again write to Mr. Yocum telling him that I want to save a bit for the rainy day in this way. Please!

As you see postage is still higher now, 20 cents per letter to America. This is because of the drop in silver exchange. Five cents gold is now only 20 cents Mex.

Business is too good in the hospital this year. Crops are good and the people can pay for their services in most cases. If I had more help we could make more from our Xray. Now I am refusing to do a great deal of xray work because I can't stay awake to do it at night after a hard day of ward rounds, a large clinic, and an afternoon full of operations. We two doctors are trying to do something for about 120 people a day, in and out of the hospital. Our local receipts are about Mex.\$2,000 a month now, a little more than our expenses. If we could do this the year round, which we can't, we would not need to take any money from the Mission except for repairs and replacements, etc.

The terrible Meningitis epidemic is over. That is there are no new cases developing. Thousands died in this district this last six weeks from it. We took care of over 200 cases in our hospital. It was impossible to keep serum on hand. Every week I would think the epidemic was about over, and a new wave would flare up. I was weekly wiring to Shanghai for more serum and always for the slow mails to bring it up to me. All of our foreign kiddies and many christian kiddies were protected by inoculations so all escaped. Our health propaganda is being more and more accepted. Every year more people come for vaccination and inoculations. We are running Health Notes in the daily paper, and are accomplishing a little in prevention.

The pictures I am enclosing I printed myself and they are not good, for I'm not in practice. I am having some better ones taken this week of both Sonny and Ruthy printed in Nanking, which I will be sending on a bit later.

Love,

Douglas

Luchowfu Anhuai -
May 19, 1931.

Dear Florence Ann -

Such a busy spring - We are in the midst of the straw berry season. I have six big beds and we are canning & making jam - first time I ever had enough before.

I expect you are remodeling your house and rejoicing in a husband who lives at home. I hope you do not regret your decision. I know I surely would prefer living in Willmar. From what I hear now it is almost impossible to change jobs in America and find a new one. Perhaps there will be a change for the better soon. Won't it be fun to remodel your bath room and kitchen with a devoted husband to do the work and help with the plans.

The package with the kiddie clothes came yesterday. Thank you so much. Clothes from America have a style about them that we can't equal out here. Sonnie's suit is about the right length but wide. It is easily remedied. He is spindling up so that his hips are not as wide as they were

Ruth's dress is almost a fit right now
at seven months. I am going to make
her a couple more some thing like it.
What my tailor needs is inspiration.
I put colored clothes on babies much
earlier than I used to. Ruth is so active
and wiggly + kinky - stands alone now
& kicks herself all over my bed. She eats
spinach + egg yolk + sucks it all over.
a white batiste dress stays clean about
as long as I turn around.

I surely like the patterns too. I am going
to try and find some thing thin + dainty in Shanghai
to make mini by.

We shall be leaving here in about a month
for Tsingtao. Miss Major will go along
with me. Doug won't be able to get away
till August so I'll have to go on ahead. I'll wait
here for the kiddies - I am going to take
some boarders this summer to keep me
company + help out on our expenses. I
hate to be away from Doug so long but
it's one of the inconveniences of living in China.
So send your answer to this letter to
my last summer address -

24th Huk. Tsingtao - Shantung.

one of our twin babies died last week. she has been coughing with whooping cough for a couple months and kept getting weaker & weaker. too little for such a long fight. The girl nurses & Miss Kahn & I all shed tears over her. We have just tried everything to save her but couldn't. a short little life but long enough for us all to learn to love her.

Sonny had his tonsils out last week and Ruth was getting over her vaccination, so between them all it was pretty hectic. and we lost years of sleep. Sonny had a hard time & even when the pain was about gone he had night mares every night of taking ether over again. Children's fears are more important than I used to realize.

I have just finished weaning Ruth and it is a big relief. She got so big and hungry and my milk satisfied her about as long as a drink of water. She wanted real food! So now she gets fine big bottles of Rhin made with sherbits or bean juice

chual morning and night and egg yolk
+ a bit of vegetable pulp at noon. No fresh fruit
+ he had except straw berries. I am giving
her a little ^{juice} she loves it - For Vit C I use an
extract of bean sprouts - I have been
giving a series of Diet talks here and at the
Woman's Center - I've got everyone talking about Vitamins
So much new information about them all
the time - quite a task to keep up to date. I
have always been especially interested in that subject.

I wonder if you got the second batch
of preventers I sent. I hope so. I know you'll
find a pessary much more satisfactory.
I see by the Literary Digest that the Federation
of Churches is endorsing Birth Control. With
such recognition surely the laws will
be changed soon. Tho I don't suppose
the Pope will ever give official sanction.
Here's a couple new pictures of my
off spring - Sonnie's suit looks cute but when
I washed it the blue faded badly. That's the
trouble with cloth here - maybe they'll learn
some day that fast colors pay.

Love to study - Much love

Grace

Luigtas - 22tus Hok.
July 13, 1931.

Dear F Louisa Ann -

The lines of communication have been down between us for over a month. I have been here about three weeks now and Doug has forwarded several letters but none from you. You are busy remodeling your house & enjoying having a husband at home.

We are in the same place we were in last year and I like it even better. I came up without my husband since he was too busy to possibly get away - but for company I had Emma Lynne Majori, my two biddies and four servants. No. I did not get lonesome! Now Lynne is living next door. Her nerves do not permit her to live with jazzy kids. I have three other house guests - one a girl in my language school class - two others from mission. They pay me four dollars a day which helps a lot. My rent for the season is \$450 - So we must have guests to share expenses - All this is in our money - divide it by 4 to figure in yours. With my good servants it is not a big

task - I plan the meals and supervise the special things. I broke my Amahis half grown boy to lay Sonnie's flying leg. He jizzes all over the beach and up and down the big rocky cliffs. I should not feel safe at all without some one to watch him every minute - It's a lazy life we live go swimming twice a day - eat + sleep. The girls with me are nurses and very tired - one has been on night duty for two years. I feel wicked when I think of Doug smeltering away in the heat. But he would not have it otherwise. It is not safe there for kiddies after it gets so hot. He will be here in about three weeks now. His vacation is in August.

I have a new bicycle - grand roads here. I feel like a little girl again. It's only a cheap Jap one but jizzes along + rides very comfortably.

This is the best vacation I have had for a long time - I enjoy having pep again and being able to use my body for hard swims and long hikes. Last year I was like a big lumbering cow - couldn't do much but float in the water.

Ruth is growing so fast - eight months now and so peppy and active - She is not a big child but well developed and has fine control of her body - I had a carpenter here make a pen for her and she stands up in it and crows and wiggles and slowly edges herself along - I expect she will walk before she is a year old - She is the most active baby I have had - She is entirely weaned now and eats like a little pig - oatmeal morning & night and egg & potato & vegetable at noon - She is surely a big satisfaction to me - She looks a little like Kilbi now - has lovely dark brown eyes like him - but her hair as it grows gets browner & redder like Phyllis - So she is a mixture and very much herself - She gets so mad over being dressed or being sat on the P.O. every few minutes - seems to insult her dignity - Here a funny picture of the two of them with Miss Wang & Miss Chen our nurses -

Its time to start making picnic sandwiches - Hope to hear from you soon - It has been a long time -

Much love

Grace

院 醫 督 基 肥 合

LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

July 19th, 1931.

Dearest Mother,

You often hear of persons being snow-bound. We usually are that here in Luchowfu for a period every winter. But I am rain-bound here now. You don't often hear of that there in America with your paved roads, railroads, etc., all modern means of transportation.

It has rained almost steadily for a week; so hard that at times it approached the severity and proportions of a cloudburst. Our entire compound was like a lake; ankle to knee-deep in many places. Even coming up over our front sidewalk at times. The one dirt-road to Chao Hsein was of course not usable, and will not be for a week after the rain finally stops. The rivers are washing over their dikes, so all boat travel is stopped. As most of the houses in Luchowfu are of mud, as are also the walls of the yards, about every fifth home has its walls washed down. Luchowfu looks like a hurricane had struck it.

Goulters delayed leaving for Kuling just a few days too long. They could not get out of town for a week after they had planned going. Finally they, together with Miss Teagarden, did get off on a sailboat, but they may be on the way from here to Wuhu yet for all you can tell. They wanted so much to make the opening of the Missionary Conference in Kuling, for Mr. Coulter had a part on the program and Mrs. Coulter was an important part of the entertainment committee. They may make it but I doubt it. Grace and Miss Major had a very easy trip out, for Luchowfu, and got out before the intense heat set in. Of course, the rain keeps the heat down a lot so that it is really unusually comfortable for this time of year.

The ice I put up last winter came to an end a month ago. But I am still using Mr. Coulter's supply, which will hold out as long as I will be here, and then some. It is a great boon and health saver. An unusual luxury for Luchowfu. Once when the ice was being carried over from Coulter's a Luchowfu citizen inquired as to what it was, and couldn't be convinced that it was ice even when allowed to feel of it, because as he said, "It can't be this time of year. It just isn't ice." I have borrowed Coulter's homemade ice box and keep my leftover food and pop bottles in it. I never had the luxury of "pop-on-ice" before in China. But last fall I included a case of "sas" in my grocery order and have saved it until now to consume. I can almost imagine myself dropping in at Varco's or some other Yakima soft drink parlor these days. I think you can gather from these remarks what are often such commonplace necessities of life to you in America are luxuries to us out here in our "transplanted" life in backward China.

Grace writes that she is very comfortably settled in Tsingtao. But that she feels very guilty being there while I stay on in Luchowfu in the heat. I tell her that that is one of the few compensations of having the care of the children always on her body. We must get them out of here early, and she naturally must go with them. Miss Nancy Fry is with her now, as a boarder, thus helping us pay our rent. Also Miss Krik, a Methodist nurse, who used to be in Language School with us. When they leave Wenona and Lillian will be with her, occupying

*I think it over, I find I mistated
these dates. Nancy, try and still remain
were with great first. Miss Kink + another nurse
will be there the first of the week, and
Miss Kink + another nurse the next 3 weeks*

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DOUGLAS S. CORPRON, M.D.
LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
LUCHOWFU (HOFEI), ANHWEI, CHINA.

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her guest beds and loving Ruth and Sonny. Later Stella Tremaine will be there. We have managed it well to have our spare rooms occupied all summer with congenial paying guests. Grace will take in \$780 which will pay the rent and the travel for the servants and permit her to have a better quality of food than otherwise possible all summer. This does not mean she will be burdened with work, for by arranging to have the rooms filled she could take more help with her. She has a good cook and cooks helper, our amah to care for Ruth and the guest bedrooms, and the amah's little 16-year old son, who will be a lot of help in keeping track of Sonny's flying legs.

about - Amah
I wonder if I have ever told you about this son of our amah's. He is now a regular member of our family. His father is an opium smoker. And therefore good for nothing, and leaves the entire care of the boy upon his poor hardworking mother. The mother could not make a home for him as she was living with and working for us all the time. The boy therefore was running wild. She thought him a very bad boy because he wouldn't mind her. Grace and I discovered him not to be a bad boy but a very smart boy with nothing to keep him out of mischief, not even a mother's care. So we told her she could bring him in to live with her here if she gave me the power of discipline over him. This she was tickled to death to do. He has lived with us for several months and is a fine kid, would make a good Boys Scout. He and Sonny are great playmates, and we have put it on his body to keep track of Sonny and keep him out of the wells and cisterns. He was thrilled to extraction over the idea of the trip this summer. Grace had a Chinese tailor outfit him in new clothes. While in Shanghai Grace took both Shi Kai, for that is his name, and Sonny to see the movie "Skippy".

Grace says that Ruthy likes the water better than Sonny. She cries when taken out of it. She is now able to walk around the inside of her pen. She is a great joy to us and especially Grace. She is Grace's girlhood doll, Ruth, come to life and growing rapidly. She is more and more a Corpron baby, with her dark skin and brown eyes. I even see papa's "corner-of-the-mouth" smile often in her as I used to with Billie. Sonny remains the white-headed, blue-eyed boy of birth.

I think I told you in my last letter that I have finally been able to get hold of two more Chinese doctors to help me. One, Dr. Cheng (not Chen, but pronounced Jun, u as in up) has signed up for two years. Dr. Wu, a woman doctor, will be with us in another month, and Dr. Tsui, who has been with me all along has signed up for another year. This will give me a chance to develop my Xray work this fall, as well as help with some medical work in cooperation with the Evangelistic work. Business is very good this year for the hospital, in fact too good in the past for we two doctors to handle properly. We have been rushed to just do something for all coming to us, with no time for missionary work except the friendly contacts we made in a professional way. No time to chat with our patients and take any special interest in them individually as we should. But as I said, business has been good, and for four months the fees have paid all expenses, including salaries, except my own of course. This is an unheard of thing and gives me hopes that we will be self-supporting some day. Last year with the famine conditions I dispaired of it. These next months will, however, not be such good months, if I can judge from past years. So then we will have to draw on our Mission grant.

院 醫 督 基 肥 合
LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

I am sorry to learn that you and Bernice got on each other's nerves. This no doubt marred what might have otherwise been a pleasant stay in beautiful Eugene. I am sending this letter to Yakima again, for I suppose by this time you will have had your Missionary meeting at Olympia and be home again.

I have let Dr. Tsui take his vacation first. He has now been gone two weeks. In another two week or so I will be on my way to Tsingtao for my vacation. I will have about two weeks there before going on to Peking for a little special study. The course I am to take is Obstetrics, but I wish especially to inspect their Xray department, and see as much surgery as possible, since Fate has made it my lot to do Xray and Surgery in our hospital. The surgery part of it often puts me in a "hole" with difficult cases I can't legitimately tackle. ~~There is~~ ^{There is} no job for one with a conscience like mine. I sometimes lose many nights sleep over one case. Last year Dr. Chen did 222 operations in our operating room. I have done 212 so far this year. I will probably pass the 350 mark before the year is over. At first I was very reluctant about doing the surgery. But as there was no one else to do it, and as the war emergency brought many cases to be done, I waded in and soon got my nerve.

The mails are beginning to come through again. I just received a letter from another doctor I had written to, saying that he could come. But as I have my vacancies all filled now I will have to refuse him. It is a great relief to see my way out again. For the past months I have been up to my neck with no seeming relief, not even for a months vacation. One month ago I fully expected to be here all summer. And at that time was not sure that Dr. Tsui would be with me this fall. His wife's parents wished them to go to Nanking.

I hope this letter finds you in good health., as good health as we are all enjoying our here. Miss Major is the weak one of our Luchowfu folks. She is on the edge of a nervous breakdown most of the time. She should not have returned to China this time. Everything gets on her nerves as it didn't used to. Grace tells me that even at Tsingtao she had to change her boarding place because of two nice but very active boys in the family, who kept her in bed most of the time. And work in China is nervous work these days, I'll tell the world. No place for one with the "Nerves".

Grace states it is a fine feeling to be on vacation without a fat stomach to hinder her vacationing hikes, etc. She says she and Miss Fry step it right off on their mountain-top picnics. Last year she had to hang onto my belt for any slight uphill work. But I suspect that about the time Ruthy gets as big as Sonny and cares as little for hugging as he now does, Grace will again forget about fat stomachs on vacations long enough to want another "cuddly" baby. Babies have a way of making themselves wanted that way, you know. No,--- I'm not preparing you for an announcement. No danger yet.

Love from your son,

Douglas

院 醫 督 基 肥 合
LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
HOFEI ANWHEI CHINA

Letter No.1.

July 4th, 1931.

Dearest Mother,

So sorry to hear that Bernice is still under the weather and having "nerves". We should, I suppose, consider this in trying to excuse to some extent her rudeness to you. But nevertheless she should not have done it. I am always glad to have you unburden your troubles onto me...I suppose, as your only son, I should be making a home for you and be more actively trying to make life easier for you and bear your burdens. But again it is just your bad luck to have trained your son with too much of a conscience for his own and his mother's good. And he has worked himself into a position that no one else could take without at least two or three years special training for it. So I guess we will have to put up with it until the Lord leads the way out of it.

We had a terrible fire in Luchowfu a few weeks ago. There are so many grass thatched roofs that when a fire gets started it is almost impossible to stop it. In this case three hundred and fifty homes were destroyed, and it came near getting our west gate church property. Mr. Goulter and I have been instrumental in obtaining \$3000 for relief from the International Famine Committee at Shanghai. So I have the responsibility of administering this fund and seeing that it is not taken as graft. The Chinese are notorious for their grafting of such funds. I am buying rice for distribution; over 100 pounds per family.

I now have my doctor problem settled again, so that I will be able to take my vacation this year as usual, but I thought for a while that it would be impossible for me to make it. Doctors seemed impossible to find. I now have a new doctor signed up for two years, who is very good in medicine, but also can help in surgery. I have again signed up my old doctor Tsui for another year. And I have a woman doctor Wu coming soon.

About the matter of my getting hit by a soldier, which you heard about from Mr. Turner, I will tell you of in detail. It really didn't amount to anything, so far as I was concerned, but it did help us get a bunch of soldiers out of the Boys School property. It is as follows:-

Ever since the Revolution we have had trouble with soldiers occupying this Boys School property. And every bunch living there did just a little more damage to the buildings until they were in a terrible condition of disrepair. Finally we got them out and obtained a poster from the head Nanking Government to the effect that no more soldiers were to be quartered there without our permission. On the strength of this Mr. Goulter put in some repairs and prepared to start an agricultural experimentation station and school there. Just as this was ready along came a hospital unite from Nanking and forced Goulter out of his office and class rooms, and gave orders that no one be permitted to enter the gates but their own unite members. I did not know about this order and supposing Goulter to be still over there, I went over to see him on a matter of business. I had not anticipated any trouble, as I had treated several of the members of the unite in my morning clinic. So I walked boldly through, what I supposed to be the front gate of our

own Boys School property, but which I soon found out not to be the case, but rather the entrance to a forbidden military barracks. I was grabbed by five or six of the guard and forcefully ejected. When I protested one slapped me in the face. Others were about to do the same thing but I hauled off and soaked him in the nose with my fist, and the others dropped back. During this interval I made my adieus and "got the heck out of there:"

Goulter was at this very time composing a telegram to Mr. Marx, to get him to bring pressure to bear upon the Government to have these soldiers ejected. My little story was just what we needed to make a good case. So we wired, "Boys School property forcefully taken by soldiers. Common beaten up by these soldiers. Do your utmost to have them ejected." And this did get action for in one week they moved out,---"because the grounds were too small." That's all there was to it. But if we hadn't made a test case of it and carried it through there would be no end of commandeering of our Mission property.

Grace and Laura Lynn Major and the kiddies have been in Tsingtao over a week now. Miss Wilkinson and Miss Collins have gone to help in the Young People's Conference at Wuhu, and will go to Tsingtao to live with us later. Miss Teagarden and the Goulters are still here. They will leave in about a week; as soon as the Daily Vacation Bible School is nicely started. I let Dr. Tsui start his month's vacation yesterday. when he gets back I will soon leave for mine. I will have about three weeks with Grace in Tsingtao before I go on to Peking for three weeks work, to brush up on surgery and obstetrics, and see their Xray department working. From there I will return to Tsingtao and bring the family home. This will give Grace three months at the seashore. I take no chances with the kiddies in the heat and Oriental diseases. Two is enough. So as soon as the heat sets in off they must go to stay until the danger is mostly over. Last year Mrs. Bates and kiddies stayed in Nanking all summer. Some fool idea about saving money I think. Both she and the little boy got amebic dysentery and have been invalids ever since. She is thin as a rail and had to go off to Kuling early this year.

Such a summer sets Grace up fine so that she does an enormous amount of real missionary work the rest of the year.. If she had no family to care for she would be doing enough for a full time missionary schedule.

Notice that our postage is still going up. Twenty-five cents a letter to America.

Hope you have a fine time at Olympia. Wish I might drive you over there. We did have some good times together in you bus, didn't we.

Love,

Doug